



**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)  
National Organic Program (NOP)  
Organic Integrity Learning Center  
Course Offerings**





## **NOP-010: Introduction to the USDA Organic System**

This course presents a core regulatory overview of organic farms, crops, livestock, and handling practices. The course also introduces fundamentals of organic production practices, including soil management and pest management.



## **NOP-020: Sound and Sensible Organic Certification**

Sound and Sensible Organic Certification describes a certification process that is affordable, accessible, and attainable for all farms and businesses. This course provides a range of resources for farms and businesses seeking organic certification to help them understand and navigate the certification process and requirements.



## **NOP-030: Fundamentals of Inspection**

The Fundamentals of Inspection course is designed to provide inspectors and reviewers with an understanding of the inspection process, so you can begin to conduct basic onsite inspections of organic crop, livestock, and handling operations. You will learn inspection procedures and tactical skills for performing efficient and effective onsite inspections, as well as tips for writing reports and communicating with certifiers. The course aligns with the USDA's goals of fair and consistent organic certification and enforcement, and the National Organic Standards Board's recommendations for inspector qualifications.



## **NOP-040: Compliance and Enforcement: Adverse Actions, Appeals, and Reinstatements**

This Compliance and Enforcement: Adverse Actions, Appeals, and Reinstatements course is designed for certifiers and inspectors responsible for investigating complaints, issuing noncompliance and adverse actions against certified operations, and navigating mediation and appeals processes. The course also addresses the reinstatement process.



## **NOP-050: Certification Administration Essentials**

The Certification Administration Essentials course outlines the managerial and administrative tasks of an accredited organic certification agency, the systems and procedures needed to address them, useful resources for management, and interpretations of the regulations. The course presents a myriad of tasks required to plan, develop, implement, and monitor a system designed to achieve and maintain USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP) accreditation. Certifiers provide a critical connection among all organic stakeholders

— certifiers, inspectors, applicants, certified operations, the USDA, and the public. This course helps certifiers to understand the quality management system necessary to implement procedures that meet NOP accreditation requirements.



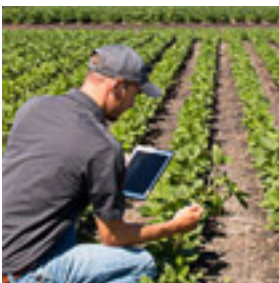
## **NOP-060: Import Oversight Essentials**

The Import Oversight Essentials course covers requirements for organic products imported into the United States and certifier responsibilities to verify the compliance of organic imports with USDA organic regulations.



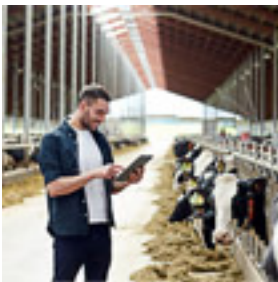
## **NOP-070: Advanced Inspections: Investigations**

The Advanced Inspections: Investigations course provides inspectors and reviewers with the fundamentals needed to plan for and conduct a thorough investigation, specifically one involving an inspection. The course focuses on planning, collecting evidence to support an ongoing investigation, and documenting your work. The course is for experienced inspectors and reviewers who have completed the Fundamentals of Inspection course and the Compliance and Enforcement: Adverse Actions, Appeals, and Reinstatements course.



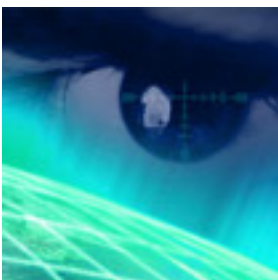
## **NOP-080: Traceability Techniques**

This Traceability Techniques course teaches certifiers, inspectors, and reviewers traceability auditing techniques for handling operations. This course reviews the purpose of traceability techniques within the organic control system. It teaches certifiers, inspectors, and reviewers traceability auditing techniques, and it explains and demonstrates two types of audits: a Trace-Back Audit and a Mass Balance Audit.



### **NOP-090: Organic Dairy Compliance**

This course covers a range of requirements related to livestock management, with a special focus on organic dairies. The primary audiences include organic certifiers, inspectors, and reviewers, who assess organic dairies for compliance with the organic regulations. Organic dairies will also benefit from knowing the National Organic Program's expectations for certifiers in overseeing their operations.



### **NOP-100: Organic Fraud and the Criminal Mind**

This course presents an introduction to product fraud and key criminology and behavioral sciences insight to understand "Organic Fraud and the Criminal Mind." This insight can then be applied to identify the fraud opportunity and focus inspections and investigations accordingly.



### **NOP-110: Preventing the Organic Fraud Opportunity**

This course expands on the "Organic Fraud and the Criminal Mind" course to review key elements and processes for conducting an organic fraud vulnerability assessment. The course reviews several case studies and applies intelligence-gathering and analysis to understand where system weaknesses occur.



### **NOP-120: Input Material Review**

This course provides instruction to organic stakeholders on how to make reliable and consistent material review decisions. This includes knowing which sources of inputs are allowed, and which restrictions apply to the use of specific input materials (and when). This course builds a solid understanding of general material review fundamentals; organic regulatory requirements; resources available to make informed compliance decisions; and complex real-world examples. This course also includes practical exercises designed to help solidify learning. This course is divided into four lessons: Fundamentals of Material Review; Crop Inputs; Livestock Inputs; and Handling Inputs. Each lesson is further divided into sections based on subject area.



## **NOP-130: Organic Seed Search**

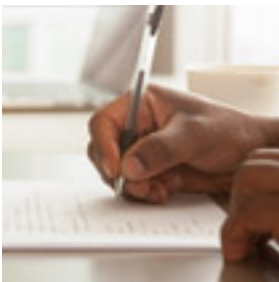
The Organic Seed Search course introduces learners to the challenges encountered with organic seed search verification across a range of certified operations. It examines the state of the organic seed supply and the challenges which certifiers and inspectors face in making informed decisions about whether equivalent varieties are available. The course guides learners in determining whether commonly encountered enforcement issues are systemic or limited in nature.

This course helps certifiers develop a consistent structure for organic seed search evaluations. This structure is based on best practices describing steps that can be taken. It includes tools that can be used to ensure certifiers apply a uniform level of scrutiny when assessing organic seed search documentation related to quality, quantity, and equivalent varieties. Finally, the course helps organic operations understand the importance of the organic seed and planting stock requirement, improve organic seed search documentation, and identify resources to improve organic seed sourcing and variety trialing.



## **NOP-140: Recordkeeping**

This course introduces learners to a variety of recordkeeping systems encountered across the range of certified operations. It examines challenges posed by different operational activities and complexity levels. The course guides learners in determining whether commonly encountered recordkeeping issues are limited or systemic in nature. Finally, this course will help certifiers structure internal and collaborative recordkeeping reviews across operations.



## **NOP-150: Organic System Plans**

The Organic System Plan (OSP) is a document used as the basis for communication between the applicant for organic certification, the certifier, and the inspector. It is the foundation of the organic certification process. This course teaches requirements related to OSPs in the USDA organic regulations, examines the different functions of the OSP, discusses critical organic control points and potential obstacles in the certification process, and provides OSP evaluation and design considerations for certifiers.



## **NOP-160: Organic Regulations and Retail Labeling**

This course introduces the federal organic standards and the stakeholders responsible for rulemaking, implementation, and enforcement. This course is intended for farms and businesses considering organic certification and for organic professionals who participate in the regulatory process. It also explains the different components of the organic standards—the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA or the Act), the USDA organic regulations, and the NOP Handbook. This course also covers the rules for labels, labeling, and marketing of organic retail products.



### **NOP-170: Certification Review Essentials**

This course introduces learners to the Organic System Plan (OSP) requirements, organic control points in compliance evaluation, and inspection report review. The course also guides learners to identify non-compliances and correct citation of the USDA organic regulations through case scenarios. This course helps reviewers to gain confidence in completing effective and efficient reviews that lead to appropriate and defensible certification decisions.



### **NOP-180: International Organic Trade Arrangements**

This course describes international organic trade, organic equivalence, and how these arrangements facilitate trade and protect organic integrity. Understanding these concepts is critical for certifiers and others evaluating products traded under equivalence.



### **NOP-190: Sampling and Testing**

This course provides an overview of the regulations and guidance that authorize certifiers to collect samples. It also examines appropriate responses to sample result findings. The course covers proper procedures for collecting samples of organic products in a variety of settings. Lastly, the course describes how sampling and testing is a tool for certifiers to verify compliance with the organic standards and effectiveness of certified operations' contamination prevention plans.



### **NOP-200: Advanced Compliance and Enforcement Topics**

The Advanced Compliance and Enforcement Topics course examines methods for determining certification status and ownership of an operation and other applicant and operation research. The course also explores advanced investigation planning, writing strong settlement agreements, and strategies to use when settlement agreements are broken.



### **NOP-210: Keep it Organic When Handling and Processing**

The Keep it Organic When Handling and Processing course introduces elements of certification, including types of handling processes, product labeling categories and composition requirements, facility pest management, sanitation, commingling risks and prevention.



## **NOP-220: Organic Integrity and Energy Infrastructure**

This course provides organic farmers who encounter infrastructure development on their farms with information to help manage what happens on their land and the long-term viability of their certified operations.

The course also helps certifiers evaluate compliance of infrastructure installation and maintenance with the organic standards and outcomes of infrastructure mitigation efforts.



## **NOP-230: Risk-Based Oversight**

The Risk-Based Oversight course expands on the concepts of organic compliance to introduce risk-based oversight and risk management strategies. Risk is a part of any business. Evaluating and assessing risks, and the vulnerabilities that can lead to risks, can help operations mitigate negative impacts to compliance. Certifiers can also manage risk at a system level by looking across its business decisions and processes, across its certified operations, and at an individual operation level.

Understanding vulnerabilities and risks in the organic market helps certifiers to evaluate an operation's OSP and related activities. Risk factors and vulnerability to risk play out differently for certifiers, inspectors, and operations. For example, a certifier may manage system-level risk by improving staff skills and capacity. Certifiers can manage risk across operations by designing a risk-based unannounced inspection program, and through inspector assignments. Certifiers and inspectors oversee the processes and procedures of a certified operation. Operations evaluate their own systems to prevent the use of non-organic products and prohibited practices and substances. This course addresses risk-based oversight as it applies to these roles. The course also addresses operational oversight "on-site" as would be described in an OSP.



## **NOP-240: Evaluating an Operation's Corrective Actions to Noncompliances**

The Evaluating an Operation's Corrective Actions to Noncompliances course introduces ways to effectively review corrective actions and supporting documents submitted by an operation. The course guides learners in examining the adequacy of an operation's corrective actions and highlights best practices to prevent the reoccurrence of noncompliances.



## **NOP-250: Natural Resources and Biodiversity**

This course teaches certifiers and inspectors how to assess natural resources and biodiversity requirements as indicated in organic system plans (OSPs) and on-site during annual inspections. The course provides tools that help you know what to review and what to include in inspection protocols and reports.



## **NOP-260: Organic Field Crop Practices**

The Organic Field Crop Practices course provides inspectors and certification professionals with a foundational understanding of organic field crop production practices and organic technical advising services. You will learn the basics of soil health, fertility management, strategies for weed, pest, and disease control, seasonal field activities, and the possibilities for offering professional organic technical advising services.



## **NOP-270: Organic Products Sold at Farmers Markets**

The Organic Products Sold at Farmers Markets course provides farmers market managers, vendors, and consumers with the knowledge and tools needed to ensure that a vendor's organic claims are legitimate. By the end of the course, farmers market managers, vendors, and consumers will understand the meaning of "organic" and be able to identify potentially mislabeled or misrepresented organic products sold at farmers markets.



## **NOP-280: Advanced Traceability and Mass Balance Techniques**

The Advanced Traceability and Mass Balance Techniques course teaches how to create consistency in traceability inspection exercises and explains effective practices for using audit tools to verify compliance and prevent fraud. Inspectors and certifiers will use scenarios to consider audit results and understand their role in taking action on audit results. This course is intended for experienced inspectors and certifiers who have already completed the NOP-080 Traceability Techniques course.



## **NOP-290: Organic Dairy Compliance 2**

The NOP-290 Organic Dairy Compliance 2 course builds on the NOP-090 Organic Dairy Compliance course with an in-depth review of the pasture practice standard and grazing season and pasture management requirements. This course also explains the process of conducting feed audits to verify that animals receive a minimum of 30 percent dry matter intake from grazing, on average, over the course of the grazing season. Throughout the course, questions, interactive scenarios, and short videos illustrate situations that inspectors may encounter at a dairy operation.





### **NOP-300: NOP People, Processes, and Policy**

The NOP People, Processes, and Policy course explains the role of the NOP within the organic industry. It introduces key NOP functions and explains how responsibilities are organized across divisions. The lessons and exercises help learners to understand where to find key resources, how to submit a complaint, and how to participate in the public comment process. The course also covers the role of the NOSB.



### **NOP-310: Scenario-Based Inspector Training**

This course introduces skills for conducting successful organic inspections including critical thinking, risk determination, effective interpersonal communication, and the observe-and-report approach. Video scenarios cover inspections of crop, livestock, and handling operations.



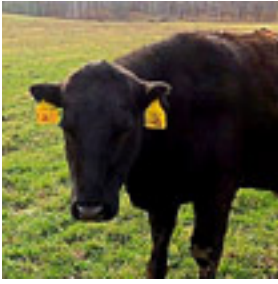
### **NOP-320: Conducting Yield Analysis**

The Conducting Yield Analysis course provides instruction on how to complete and evaluate a yield analysis for U.S.- and non-U.S.-based operations. It introduces the concepts and research that underpin yield analysis. It then teaches how to apply these concepts through hands-on exercises. The course explains potential outcomes of yield analysis and provides a framework for evaluating results, with a discussion of caveats and considerations. Finally, the course recommends best practices for documenting yield analysis, which is essential when determining a course of action for operations that may have violated the organic regulations.



### **NOP-330: Origin of Livestock**

This course teaches organic certifiers, inspectors, and producers about the updated Origin of Livestock requirements in the USDA organic regulations, published in April 2022.



### **NOP-340: Livestock Traceability**

This course gives certification professionals a foundational understanding of livestock traceability considerations. This course introduces ways to strengthen organic integrity, identify potential fraud, perform livestock traceability and verification at the time of inspection, and verify compliance with organic livestock regulations for producers, processors, and handlers.



### **NOP-350: Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) Final Rule Core Course**

The Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) final rule update to the USDA organic regulations strengthens oversight and enforcement of the production, handling, and sale of organic products. This final rule implements 2018 Farm Bill mandates, responds to industry requests for updates to the USDA organic regulations, and addresses National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommendations. The SOE

final rule protects organic integrity and bolsters farmer and consumer confidence in the USDA organic seal by supporting strong organic control systems, improving farm to market traceability, increasing import oversight authority, and providing robust enforcement of the organic regulations. The SOE complements and supports the many actions that the USDA takes to protect the organic label, including the registration of the USDA organic seal trademark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The registered trademark provides authority to deter uncertified entities from falsely using the seal, which—together with this new rule—provides additional layers of protection to the USDA organic seal. This course divides the rule's sections into nine manageable lessons for targeted reading and learning.



### **NOP-360: Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) Final Rule Core Course**

The Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) Final Rule Core Course teaches organic certifiers, inspectors, and producers about the updated OLPS requirements in the USDA organic regulations, published in November 2023.



### **NOP-996: Growing the Organic Workforce**

This course contains a library of NOP growing the organic workforce modules. The NOP and nonprofit partners develop resources to train, recruit, and support organic professionals. These resources promote market development, protect organic integrity, and enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion.



### **NOP-997: National Organic Program Microlearning**

The National Organic Program Microlearning course contains a library of NOP microlearning modules. Microlearnings present a short topic accompanied by a knowledge check. These modules are designed for on-the-job learning and are not graded.



### **NOP-998: National Organic Program Presentations**

This course contains a library of NOP presentations delivered at conferences and meetings. Most presentations were recorded following the event and therefore are not the live versions. They are posted to keep the organic community informed about our work as we address different audiences.



### **NOP-999: National Organic Program Training Archive**

This course holds the content for all published courses in the Organic Integrity Learning Center, so you can continue to access course content once you have completed a course. The course also includes, Archived Slides, a separate page that includes selected material from the National Organic Program's annual training sessions for certifiers, on topics not yet integrated into Learning Center courses. Training content that has been integrated into Learning Center courses is not repeated here.